

VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE
88 WEST MCINTYRE STREET
KEY BISCAYNE, FL 33149

K – 8 EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010 9:15 A.M.

BUILDING, ZONING, AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR ROOM 250

AGENDA

1. Attendance
2. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2010
3. Additions and deletions
4. District News
5. (15 Min.) Subcommittee 1 Report
6. (15 Min.) Subcommittee 2 Report
7. (10 Min.) Methodology to vote on subcommittee proposed Compact Items
8. (50 Min.) Discussion and vote on proposed Compact Items
 - a. Subcommittee 2 proposed Miscellaneous Section Items
9. Next Regular Advisory Board Meeting Date – May 4, 2010
10. Adjournment

DRAFT Minutes: March 9, 2010

1. Attendance Present: Amy Erwin, Brett Graff, Allison Eng Perez, Cassia Silva, Charles Viscito, Ana de Varona, Chad Friedman, Chip Iglesias and Lisa Martinez. Absent: Margie Meagher
2. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2010
3. Additions and deletions: None

4. District News:

Mr. Viscito mentioned the Rally to Tally on March 25th. Ms. Eng-Perez mentioned that for those that cannot attend they can write letters to our legislators in Tallahassee.

Mr. Viscito mentioned the Superintendents Town Hall Meeting is on dadeschools.net for all those interested in reviewing it.

Mr. Viscito mentioned that Amy Erwin, Betty Sime Conroy and he attended the Coffee and Conversation with the Superintendent. Betty was able to speak to the superintendent about volunteering and possibly providing some type of tax break. The superintendent seemed very interested and directed staff to look in to the matter.

5. Academic Programs & Access Subcommittee Report:

Brett Graff reported on the subcommittee's work. The school can be improved by nurturing our current strength. The school already has an EFL program, but we want to improve it. Want to expand the bilingual program. It is important to nurture our relationship with the Spanish consulate. The 4th and 5th grades are already working with the consulate and are doing something similar to the IS program. The committee recommends officially having an International Studies (IS) program.

Amy Erwin mentioned that there is an IS High School opening in Coral Gables.

Brett Graff mentioned that we currently have a partnership with MAST Academy and the Key Biscayne Nature Center. These are prominent partners so we want to continue and improve our relationships with them. As for improvements in the arts, would like to see more artwork displayed throughout the Village by establishing a formal student art exhibition program. The school is currently using Everyday Math, but would like to make sure that there is continued funding.

Mr. Viscito would like to see the enhancement of "Hands on Science" to students in K-5.

6. Extracurricular Activities Update:

Mr. Viscito mentioned that he attended the Key Biscayne Community center Advisory Board Meeting. We are waiting for a meeting to be set up with the assigned board member and Ms. Tarafa to have the discussion on programs and usage of the facilities.

7. Academic Achievement & Enrichment Discussion:

Mr. Viscito prepared some suggestions on improving academic achievement and enrichment. He would like consensus on the issues and then submit them to the sub-committee so they can be further discussed. The development of a compact is a moving document; priorities should reflect outcomes for the next five years.

The group went over Mr. Viscito's suggestions:

- a. Through the initiative and guidance of the Educational Excellence School Advisory Council (EESAC), strive to achieve increasingly higher academic performance, achievement and recognition, annually. We want to make sure we keep the high standards that we currently have.
- b. Support the expansion of the Extended Foreign Language (EFL) Program and the development of an International Studies Spanish Program (IS) in partnership with the Spanish Consulate in all grades transitionally, and pursue formally branding the school as an International Studies Spanish Language School. Mr. Viscito mentioned we should focus on working with the Spanish Consulate because the school is already working with the consulate. He would like to see if the IS Program can be expanded for next year.
- c. Develop a plan to implement Everyday Mathematics and Hands-on-Science to all students in grades K-5.
- d. Develop a plan to implement a 7 period schedule in grades 6-8, establishing Spanish as a required elective and providing students the opportunity to take 2 additional electives. Ms. Eng-Perez recommended adding Strive to develop. This item should go back to the sub-committee for discussion. There are talks all over the country about adding an extra hour, but funding is an issue.
- e. Strive to increase the offering of high school level courses and the respective enrollment of students in advanced Foreign Language, Mathematics and Science in grades 6-8. Would like to see more high school level courses in the middle school.
- f. Collaborate with Mast Academy, RSMAS, NOAA, Key Biscayne Nature Center, Bill Baggs State Park and the Miami Seaquarium to establish formal science enrichment programs. It is important to formalize these relationships.
- g. Collaborate with Key Biscayne businesses and organizations; including the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society, the Art in Public Places Board and the Active Seniors on the Key Board, to establish formal civic, art and intergenerational enrichment programs.
- h. Pursue the establishment of an opt-in Middle School Volunteer Service Program tied to special recognition and acknowledgement. There should be a formal Middle School program for community service hours.

- i. Encourage participation in the Village of Key Biscayne Athletic Programs and Community Center Enrichment Programs.
- j. Develop a measurable strategic methodology to meet Class Size Requirements, enhance teacher-to-student ratios, and provide equitable and effective Team Teaching classes when necessary.
- k. Pursue the attainment of all available grants that pertain to Academic Achievement and Enrichment.

Cassia Silva asked if there is a timeline to develop the compact. There isn't a deadline. Mr. Viscito mentioned that based on the ability to meet there are limitations. Ms. Silva recommended having a tentative timeline that the board can follow.

- 8. Feasibility of Accelerating Improving Academic Programs & Expanding the Foreign Language Program for Implementation at the start of the 2010-2011 School Year:

Ms. Eng-Perez asked if the Manager would authorize the Board to ask for a cost of expanding the EFL Program.

Mr. Viscito mentioned he meet with the Manager on collaborating with the district.

Ms. Eng Perez mentioned that the subcommittee needs more details in order to make a recommendation to the full board.

- 9. Further Collaboration with the M-DCPS Administration in developing some areas of the K-8 Education Advisory Board Work Product:

Mr. Viscito mentioned that the sub-committee is at the point that they would like to make a recommendation but need more information from the district. Ms. Eng Perez would like to know the potential cost of the EFL program and the potential for expanding it next school year.

Ms. Martinez mentioned that in the spirit of creating the compact, she needs to understand what the Village's priorities are and then she can go back to the district. Mr. Iglesias mentioned that at the moment we do not know how long it would take for all the priorities to be ready. There may be a topic that is advanced enough, but if we wait to give the district all of the priorities it might take years before we can begin to negotiate.

Ms. Eng Perez mentioned that everyone is in agreement the EFL program is the priority, recognizing that other issues may be long term. Mr. Iglesias mentioned that if there is one stand alone issue, discussions can begin with the district so once we have the information necessary to make a recommendation it can go to Council. The Manager agreed to take the item of Expanding the EFL Program to the next level. The conversations for this item will take place between Ms.

Martinez and the Manager.

Ms. Martinez mentioned that she will take back the item of expanding the EFL Program back to the district to start on the research requested. She will discuss with her staff different ideas for implementing the program. Mr. Viscito asked Ms. Martinez what is the possibility of expanding the program next year. Ms. Martinez mentioned that she would have to start the process now, but she first has to go to the school and investigate.

Mr. Iglesias recommended that the board present the district with bullet points on how they would implement the expansion of the EFL program. Ms. Eng Perez mentioned that the sub-committee would prepare the bullet points for the district. They would like to see the program expanded in Kindergarten and 1st Grade the first year. Would like to see the IS Program throughout the school by grouping grades together. It is important to understand from the district if it is even feasible to expand the program.

Mr. Viscito mentioned that the only other information that might be needed from the district would be on the facilities.

The Manager reminded the group that the bullet point must be sent to Ana so she can send them to Ms. Martinez.

10. Suggestions for Accelerating the K-8 Education Advisory Board Work Product: A second sub-committee was created to discuss the remaining priorities of the board. These items include: Extracurricular Activities, Coordinating School infrastructure (capacity, facilities & lease agreement) and Miscellaneous (truancy, student support services, communications, health & safety and staff retention. The committee will consist of Cassia Silva, Amy Erwin, Margie Meagher and Charles Viscito.

11. Next Regular Advisory Board Meeting Date – April 6, 2010 at 9:15am. Mr. Viscito recommended moving the meetings to 9:15am.

12. Adjournment 11:25am

Respectfully submitted,
Ana de Varona
Special Projects Coordinator